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Dr. Richard W. Cottam, Professor of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh, will give a lecture in the Visiting Scholar Series on Tuesday, April 18, at 8 p.m. in the College Chapel. His talk will deal with a topic of wide current interest, the C.I.A. and American diplomacy.

Dr. Cottam, who earned his M.A. and Ph. D. in political science from Harvard University, has served on the Department of Political Science at Pitt since 1958. From 1953 to 1958, he was a political analyst in the U.S. Government and spent the last two years of this period in the Foreign Service as political officer in Tehran, Iran.

He has received a number of honors in recognition of his academic achievements: he was Phi Beta Kappa as an undergraduate at the University of Utah; he received a Fulbright Fellowship to Iran in 1951-1952; he received the Chase Award for his doctoral dissertation in 1954; and he was awarded a Social Science Research Council Fellowship in 1959.

A specialist in foreign affairs, particularly of the Middle East, Dr. Cottam has written widely on the subject. In addition to a book, "Nationalism in Iran", published in 1964, he has written a number of articles and delivered several papers on Middle Eastern and Iranian political affairs. He is presently at work on two books, "The British in Egypt": A Motivational Theory of Imperialism" and "Cento: A Study in Foreign Policy Perceptions".

Dr. Cottam is particularly well qualified to speak on the subject of C.I.A. involvement in foreign affairs, for he deals with this subject at some length in his new book "Competitive Interference and 20th Century Diplomacy", which will be published in June of this year.